

# REPORT

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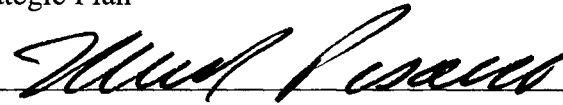
**DATE:** February 5, 2004

**TO:** The Administration Committee  
The Regional Council

**FROM:** Charlotte Eckelbecker, Government Affairs Analyst  
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**SUBJECT:** Amendment to the Ten Year Strategic Plan

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL**



**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the recommendation of the Strategic Plan Task Force to amend the Ten Year Strategic Plan

## **SUMMARY:**

The Strategic Plan Task Force voted at its last meeting to amend the Ten Year Strategic Plan to eliminate the two advisory bodies called for under the Plan's public participation goal and instead permit members of the community to serve on task forces in an ex officio capacity for a specified term. Draft amendment language appears following the Fiscal Impact section of this report and was prepared according to the specifications of the Strategic Plan Task Force. The Strategic Plan Task Force recommends the adoption of the amendment by the Administration Committee.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Over the previous seven months, the Strategic Plan Task Force has evaluated the Ten Year Strategic Plan's requirement to form two new advisory bodies under "Goal Four—Improve Public Involvement in the Regional Planning Process."

The Task Force considered the advantages and disadvantages of the required advisory groups as envisioned by the Plan. One advantage was the advisory bodies' ability to supplement SCAG's work with diverse suggestions from the community. The disadvantages of the regional advisory groups were numerous: staffing the groups required the allocation of scarce financial resources; members of the public are difficult to recruit and retain for advisory-only groups with vaguely defined purposes; and additional advisory groups might duplicate efforts already underway at SCAG in existing task forces.

After considering and rejecting the possibility of creating freestanding ad hoc advisory committees, the Task Force advised staff to draft an amendment to the Ten Year Strategic Plan to permit members of the community to serve on task forces in an ex officio capacity for a specified term. The Task Force specified that any member of a task force should be allowed to nominate a member of the community for a task force, and the task force should approve the



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nomination. The President of SCAG would then be asked to appoint the member of the community to the task force.

If the Administration Committee and the Regional Council approve the amendment, staff will prepare a memorandum advising task force chairs of the possibility of adding members of the community to their task forces. The memorandum will also advise chairs of the expenses related to ex officio participation and will encourage chairs to consult with the President of SCAG prior to the President's appointment

The revised draft amendment follows as directed by the Task Force. Underlined text is new; text shown in ~~strikeout~~ is repealed.

Following approval by the Administration Committee and the Regional Council, the next steps toward implementation include notifying task force chairs of the possibility of increasing public involvement in their decision making processes by nominating members of the public for seats on task forces. Staff will include in the memorandum to chairs all relevant information about the per diems paid to task force members and instructions to consult with the President about nominations and costs so all parties are informed about the qualifications of nominees.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

On November 6, 2003, the Regional Council approved a new travel reimbursement policy for appointed committee and task force members. According to the policy, members of SCAG committees and task forces who are appointed by the SCAG President, do not work for public agencies, and are not reimbursed by another entity for their travel expenses are eligible to receive reimbursement for round-trip mileage, round-trip transit, and parking. They are ineligible for stipends.

At that time, the fiscal impact of the new policy was estimated between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per fiscal year with costs charged to each project according to the specific committee or task force.

Consequently, the fiscal impact of approving the amendment to the Ten Year Plan will increase this cost based on the number of additional ex officio members appointed to task forces. To hold costs down, task force chairs will be advised of this policy so that a reasonable number of appointments are made are in light of SCAG's constrained finances.



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## Goal Four—Improve Public Involvement in the Regional Planning Process

The Regional Council shall ~~develop a framework for~~ encourage and cultivate inclusive and meaningful public involvement in its planning processes and decision-making ~~and stakeholder partnerships~~ to support the implementation of the Regional Council's policies and projects.

### Strategy

The Regional Council shall ~~formalize~~ facilitate a consultative process with the larger regional community that will provide SCAG with advice on regional issues and trends. ~~The elements of this strategy are twofold.~~ At the center of the consultative process shall be the ability of SCAG task forces to enlist members of the general public to advise them in the following way:

- ~~1. One citizen representative nominated by each subregion and appointed by the Regional Council. These citizen representatives shall go through an application process and be recommended to the Regional Council for appointment. In addition, following the same selection process, the Regional Council shall appoint several individuals (the number to be determined) representing regional organizations interested in regional issues. While the organizations may have permanent seats on this advisory group, all~~



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1        ~~appointed individuals shall be subject to a term limit (the length of tenure to~~  
2        ~~be determined), and may not serve consecutive terms beyond the established~~  
3        ~~term limit policy of the Regional Council. Members of the general public who~~  
4        ~~are nominated by a SCAG task force and are appointed by the SCAG~~  
5        ~~President may sit on a task force in an ex officio capacity for a specified term.~~  
6

- 7        2. ~~Furthermore, the Regional Council shall appoint regional leaders through a~~  
8        ~~process involving established private sector regional institutions. While~~  
9        ~~organizations may have permanent seats on this advisory group, individuals~~  
10       ~~on the advisory body shall be subject to a term limit (the length of tenure to be~~  
11       ~~determined), and may not serve consecutive terms beyond the established~~  
12       ~~policy of the Regional Council.~~  
13

14       ~~The Regional Council shall adopt the roles and responsibilities of these committees. A~~  
15       ~~plan for effective utilization of these committees shall also be submitted to the Regional~~  
16       ~~Council at the same time for approval.~~  
17

